

REVIEWS

MINOR MEDICINE. Edited by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Alan A. Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. Published on behalf of "The Practitioner" by Eyre & Spottiswoode (Publishers) Ltd. 1942. Pp 223. Price 16s.

This volume consists of twenty-four chapters, each by a well-known physician, and deals with such subjects as chronic constipation; the common cold; obesity; migraine; herpes; neuralgia; the psychological factor in general practice; rheumatic myalgia; corns, warts, and boils; skin-area rashes; etc.

As stated in the editorial preface, it is "a compact manual of everyday medicine which, although designated by common usage as 'minor,' deals with maladies which play, nevertheless, a major part in the discomfort of the individual, and, taking a long view, in the health and well-being of the nation."

It seems strange that in a volume published in 1942 "the drugs mentioned are not entirely available on a war-time basis," and that it should therefore be necessary to warn the reader to consult the Medical Research Council's "Economy in the Use of Drugs in War-Time" before making the prescriptions recommended. Many of these prescriptions would lose none of their therapeutic value by the omission of syrups, glycerin, and much of the alcohol contained in the tinctures and spirits. One wonders, too, why "pinoleum" should receive special mention in the treatment of tracheitis (page 81).

These, however, are but minor criticisms of a book which contains much useful information not readily available in the ordinary textbooks. The volume is one of the most valuable of "The Practitioner Handbooks," and may be warmly recommended to students and general practitioners, especially those recently qualified.

PREVENTIVE INOCULATION. By W. Powell Phillips, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., and G. W. Anderson, M.B., D.P.H. Edited by Sir H. Rolleston, Bt., M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. With an Introduction by J. Greenwood Wilson, M.D., F.R.C.P. "The Practitioner" Booklets, 1942. Price 6s. net.

This booklet of seventy-four pages is divided into twelve chapters dealing with infection and immunity, the technique of injections, preventive inoculation against diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles, influenza, and the common cold, and concludes with brief notes on prophylaxis in other diseases.

It sets out clearly and in unbiased terms what may be expected from preventive inoculation, and can therefore be thoroughly recommended to students and practitioners. In particular, those practitioners who still require to be reminded of their duty to educate their patients in the simple and safe measures which can be carried out to prevent illness and so much unnecessary loss of life, especially from diphtheria, would do well to read this booklet and practise its teaching.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF SURGICAL TREATMENT. Second Edition. E. L. Farquharson. With a foreword by Sir John Fraser. Pp. 392: 63 plates. Price 25s.; postage 7d. E. & S. Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1942.

The stimulus and special occasions of war have demanded the issue of this second edition relatively quickly. It is a book of immense value to the house-surgeon and casualty officer, and its wealth of illustrations renders it more informative than many more ponderous books.

Fractures and orthopaedic techniques fill the greater part of the book, so that it deals essentially with the treatment of injury, and is therefore of more than usual importance at the present time. In the present edition the chapters on intravenous transfusion have been brought up to date, and the standard methods and apparatus are clearly described. There is a great expansion of the illustrations.

The author is to be congratulated on being able to turn out such a commendable production whilst on war service. As usual, Messrs. E. & S. Livingstone have produced a finely published book.